

Clinical Laboratory Update

June 2021

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From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

MHDL welcomes new leadership

MHDL would like to formally welcome new Assistant Laboratory Directors Dr. Nandhu Balakrishnan and Dr. Lucas Beversdorf. Prior to joining MHDL, Dr. Balakrishnan (pictured below, left) served as the Chief of Microbiology for the Bureau of Laboratories at Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Beversdorf (pictured below, right) served as Water Quality Manager at Milwaukee Water Works before accepting his current role at MHDL.



MHDL recruiting for Microbiologist

The City of Milwaukee is currently recruiting candidates for a [Microbiologist position](#) at MHDL. The Microbiologist is responsible for performing moderate to high complexity testing of clinical and environmental specimens for the MHD Laboratory, clinics and programs. Qualified candidates can apply at <https://city.milwaukee.gov/DER/jobs> through **Monday, July 19.**

MHDL receives Promising Practice award

The City of Milwaukee Health Department was recently recognized as a Promising Practice award recipient by the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO), for its "Growing Healthy Soil for Healthy Communities" project. Growing Healthy Soils started in 2014 as a 5-year community grant project led by the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in partnership with the MHD Laboratory and Lead Program, Sixteenth Street Community Health Center (SSCHC), Walnut Way Conservation Corp., and University of Wisconsin-Madison, with funding from the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program (HWPP). Aimed at increasing demand for and improving access to soil testing for residential gardeners, project efforts laid the groundwork for [MHDL's community soil screening program](#).

Sexually Transmitted Infections

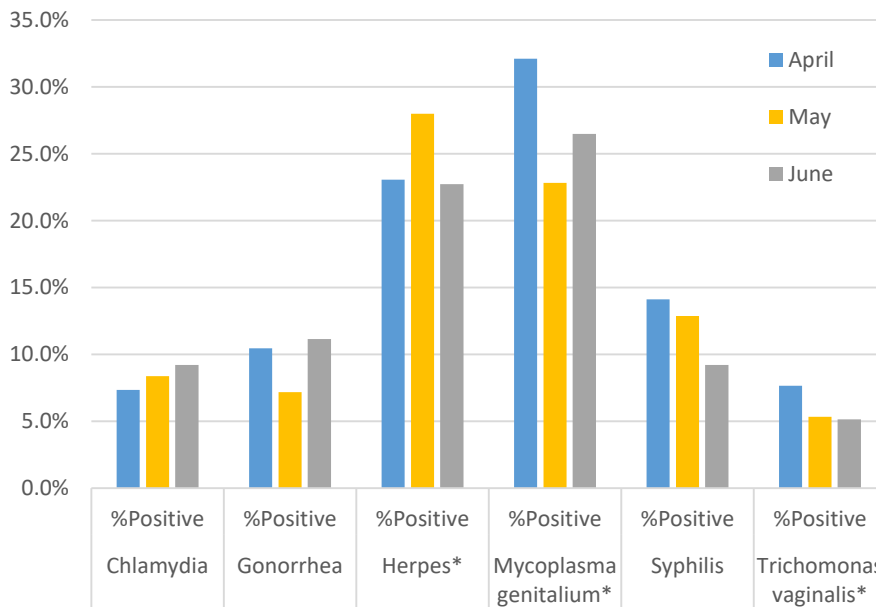


Figure 1: Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

Respiratory Infections

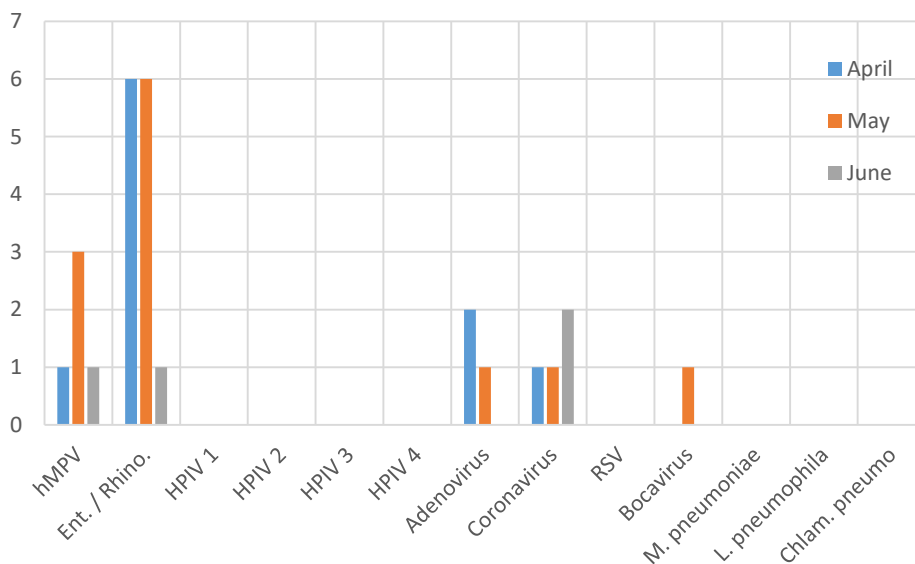


Figure 2: Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

Connect with your health department:



Links to related information & data:

[MHDL COVID-19 Testing website](#)

[MHD COVID-19 Situation](#)

[WSLH Laboratory Surveillance Report](#)

New HIV Infections

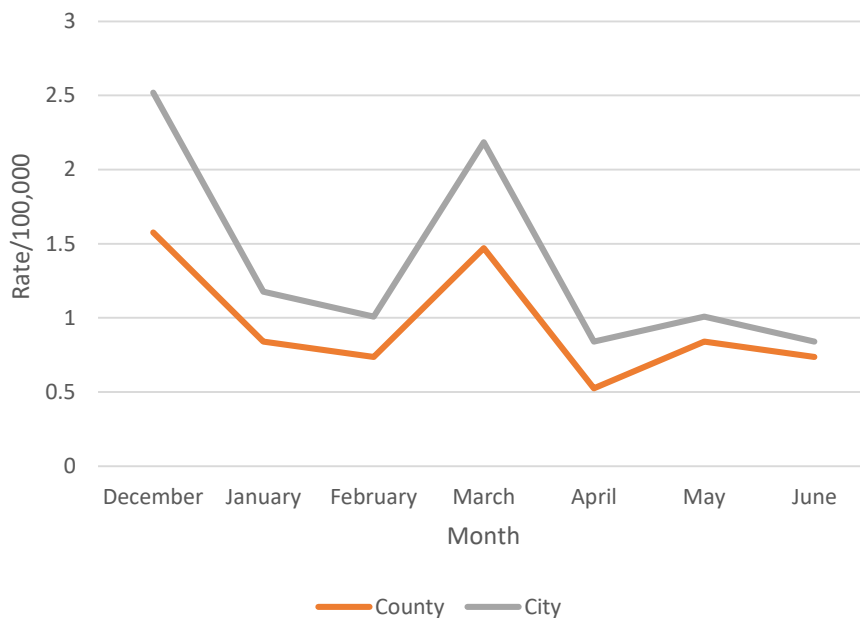


Figure 3: Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee, using data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Numbers are provisional and subject to change.

For statewide HIV data, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>

Syphilis Surveillance

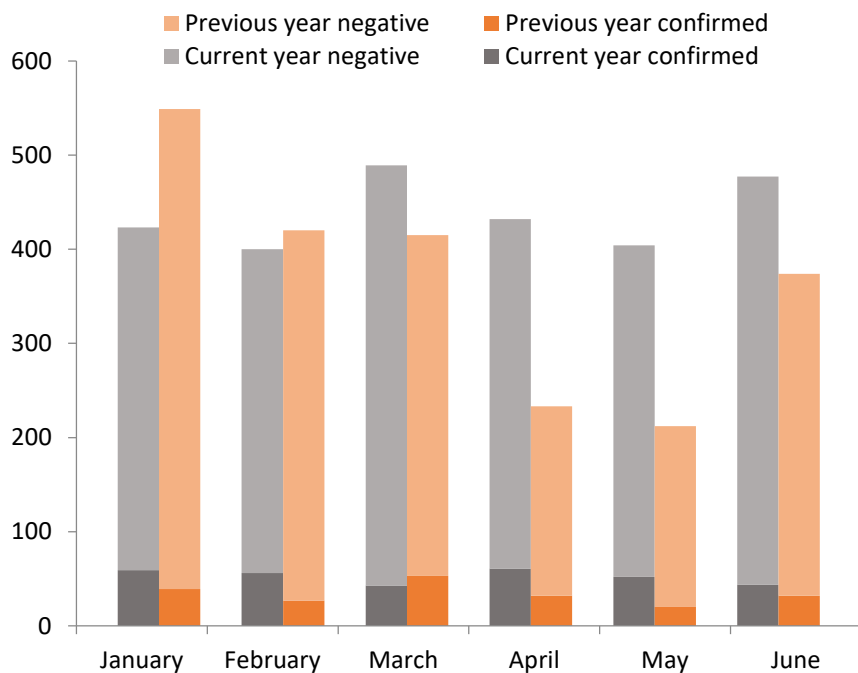


Figure 4: Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

Number of specimens screened at MHDL, darker bars represent confirmed tests.

Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

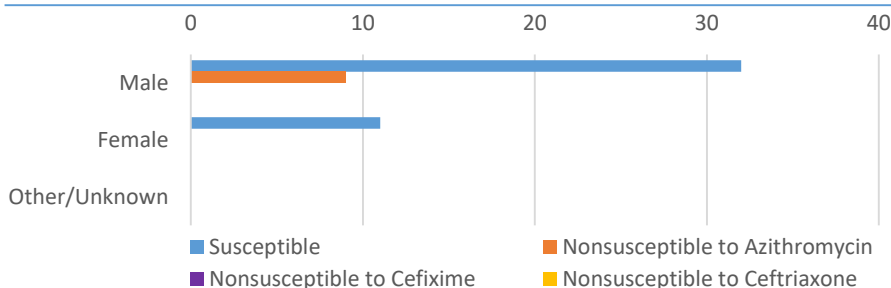


Figure 5: Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In June 2021, 9 of 52 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHDL tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source

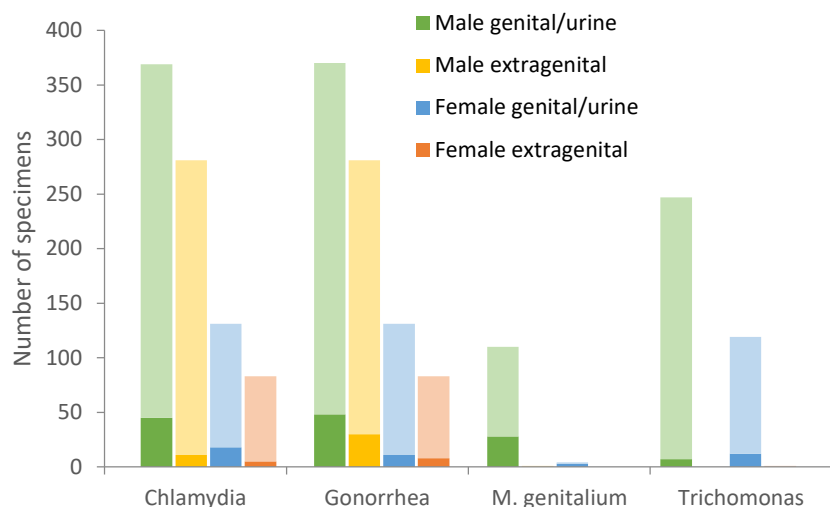


Figure 6: Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In June 2021, 8.6% of male and 10.7% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 12.0% of male and 8.9% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 25.2% of male and 3 of the 4 female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. 2.8% of male specimens and 10.0% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.

Viral Surveillance

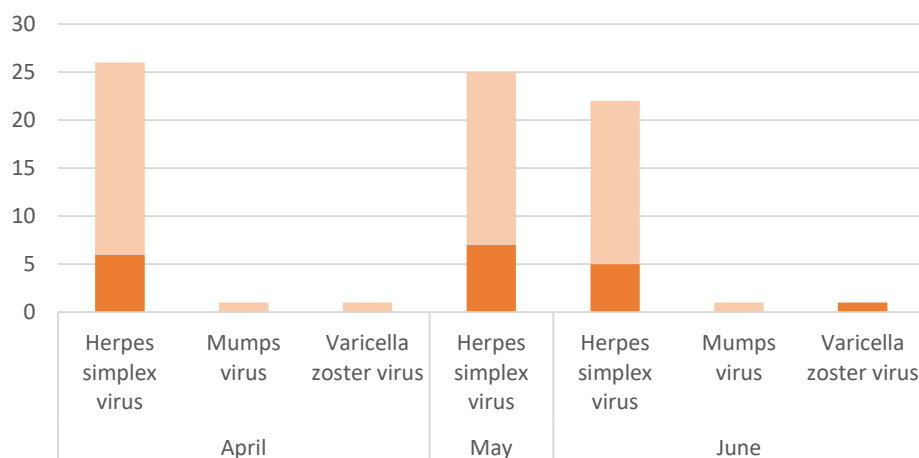


Figure 7: Specimens tested using molecular methods.

Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.

Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.

Legionella Testing

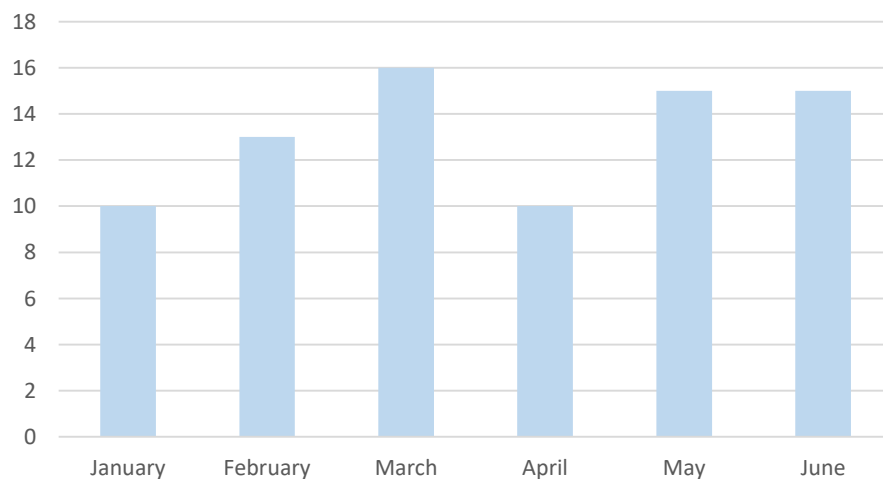


Figure 8: Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

*MHDL is one of the **CDC ELITE** certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed Legionella pneumophila by culture and/or real-time PCR.